

LaPorte County Commissioners/Council Mtg Update Updates 3/22/2021

LCAF:

- Phase 3 application has been submitted
- We will be updated on award status in early to mid-April
- Previous 2 phases
 - 40 companies approved locally and by state
 - 38 w9's have been received to date to distribute awards
 - Hosting public hearings regarding the grant next Tuesday at the Commissioner meeting to close out the grant process
 - This program helped to retain 440 jobs in La Porte County
 - In both phases, 60 companies and helped to retain 550 jobs in La Porte County

Housing Task Force

- Steering Committee Update Set for March 26th
- In conjunction with Greenstreet Ltd. (the LaPorte Countywide Housing Market Analysis Contractor) and Unity Foundation of La Porte County the process has been moving for 3 months
- Have hosted several round-table zoom meetings and stakeholder engagement to include as many in the process as possible
- Hosted Greenstreet's P.M. in La Porte County February 23&24 2021
- Previous presentations posted to Vibrant LP County Website
- Process should be complete in 4-6 months

LaPorte County Broadband Taskforce

- Submitted Grant to Healthcare Foundation of La Porte for funding for a (Vendor Neutral) fiber to the premise study for all of La Porte County
 - Study will give us a total cost to get each and every household in La Porte County connected to fiber
- Created a new survey with the intent to capture more data on existing conditions in the rural parts of La Porte County
 - Currently in review with Dr. Roberto Gallardo
 - Press release in draft form regarding survey release
- Internet Days scheduled for June
 - Working with task force members to create slides to present and structure of the report to the community
- Working with other Indiana Counties on RFQ process to serve internet to all county residents and businesses
 - Exploring struggles they faced and how La Porte County could replicate
- ACME Communications, Comcast, Mediacom, AT&T continue aggressive deployment

- Created a page on the county website for resources for the public
 - <https://laporteco.in.gov/residents/broadband-task-force/>

New Business

- Working with state EDC on business expansion within La Porte County of existing business
 - Project Great expansion set within next 18 months
 - Jobs Numbers TBD
 - Manufacturing Project Lead, in the Food and Medical industry packaging products sector with an accepted offer to purchase space in LPC seeks to close quickly ultimately leading to the creation of approximately 15 to 20 FTE's.
 - Project Pinnacle, awaiting a final answer on this opportunity on 60,000 SF space requirement and create 65 new permanent full time skilled positions in light manufacturing.
 - Multiple sites submitted to site selector for a vertical grow operation of significant size and scale

Lead Submissions

- This year, already 15 site submissions for business expansion
 - These are for new jobs at or above competitive wages for La Porte County Residents
 - Several new leads are specific to La Porte County and the availability of Rail in KIP
- Site catalog updates weekly to available acreage and building space
 - Working with developers on opportunities to develop new space or acquire land for deals to occur more smoothly

Chamber Involvement

- Fostering collaboration between chambers, EDCs and Workone on collective workforce initiatives within La Porte County
- Working with LEAP and CWI on retaining and developing high school students looking towards career paths
- Goals of the Task Force is to look at future labor force needs and put programs and connections in place to develop young talent and reeducate those in fields that are no longer offered in the region
 - 2 hiring events/career days in the near term
 - Dates and more info to come

LAPORTE COUNTY WEBSITE

- As of March 4th, the website celebrated it's 1 year anniversary with over 1,000,000 users over the past 12 months
- Daily COVID 19 Update Provided immediately upon our offices receipt of these reports, these are always 1 day lagging because of the frequency with which the state updates online
- Used on a Daily basis for site selection with prospects and existing companies and developers alike

- Applaud the efforts of Sera Solutions and their continued support of our efforts
- Highest compliments to each and every super user in the Group.
- See an issue bring it to our attention.

Marketing and Attraction

- I94 Billboard set to renew in May
- Continued focus on Intersection of Industry
- Plans to add Point of Contact for 2021-2022